

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Sub-Committee F15.02, Safety Standards for Cigarette Lighters - Agenda Items: Multi-Purpose Lighters and CPSC Special Study to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Cigarette Lighter Standard.

DATE OF MEETING: October 1, 1998

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: October 15, 1998

PERSON SUBMITTING LOG: Barbara Jacobson

LOCATION: Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Barbara Jacobson, Directorate for Epidemiology and Health Sciences, and Michael Bogumill, Office of Compliance

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): See listing of attendees in the attached ASTM minutes

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

NOTE: Minutes of entire ASTM meeting attached.

We told the meeting attendees that on September 24th, the Commission voted unanimously to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) for multi-purpose lighters. The NPR was published on September 30 for public comment. There is a 75-day comment period, making comments due by December 14th. We said that the next decision point by the Commission would be a decision on whether or not to publish a final rule. This may be as early as the Spring of 1999. If the Commission votes to proceed, the final rule could become effective 12 months from publication of the final rule.

The scope of the proposed rule has been expanded to include micro-torches. In addition to being promoted for uses such as soldering, brazing, hobbies, and crafts, micro-torches are promoted for some of the same general consumer uses as other types of multi-purpose lighters. These uses include igniting fireplaces and grills, pilot lights, and camping equipment. Excluded from the scope of the proposed rule are devices intended primarily for igniting smoking materials, devices that contain more than 10 ozs. of fuel, and matches.

We said we would be mailing letters and copies of the NPR to importers and manufacturers of both multi-purpose lighters and micro-torches. We reviewed both types of lighters covered within the scope of the proposed rule. Several lighter manufacturers expressed concern that the requirement for multiple operations of the ignition mechanism was too design restrictive. We said that the objective was to address the potential for flashback in

CPSC 6 (b)(7) Cleared

X No Mfrs/Privileges or
Products Identified

10-23-98

situations such as igniting gas grills. They asked whether a more general requirement could be developed that would allow manufacturers more flexibility in addressing the potential for flashback. We invited written comments and encouraged the manufacturers to offer specific alternative requirements, such as performance requirements for lighting efficiency. We requested that any suggested alternative requirements specify test conditions.

A concern was raised that including multi-purpose lighters with "any type of fuel" within the scope could be interpreted to capture "windproof" luxury cigarette lighters that are promoted for uses such as camping and hunting.

The Subcommittee had previously formed a Technical Working Group to provide input to the Commission on the multi-purpose lighter proceeding and to work on a voluntary general safety standard for utility lighters. The Technical Working Group scheduled a meeting for November 2nd in Washington, D.C. to develop comments on the provisions of the proposed mandatory rule. CPSC staff was invited to meet with the Technical Working Group on the afternoon of the 2nd.

A question was raised about the availability of the 1996 National Fire Loss Estimates report. We said that the report was in clearance and would be available soon.

The staff is currently conducting a special study to evaluate the effectiveness of the Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters. In-scope cases include residential child-play fires started by children of any age with any type of lighter. The target number of fires is 400. So far, we have information on approximately 300 cases. The data collection has been extended through January 1999. Challenging aspects of the study include identifying the specific lighters involved in the fires and whether the mechanisms have been defeated.



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25th
Anniversary
F-15

October 9, 1998

TO: Members of Subcommittee F15.02

FROM: Kathie Morgan

RE: Minutes

Enclosed for your information are the minutes of the recent F15.02 meeting in Washington DC. Please note the last page of the minutes which provides information on the November 2nd meeting of the Technical Task Group on utility lighters.

MINUTES OF FORTY-NINTH MEETING
ASTM SUB-COMMITTEE F15.02
SAFETY STANDARDS FOR LIGHTERS

Meeting Held:
October 1, 1998
Mayflower Hotel
Washington, D.C.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

On a motion made and seconded the minutes of the previous meeting held on April 16th and 17th, 1998, with 2 corrections, were unanimously approved.

Premixing Burner Lighters

Roger Ducharme presented temperature data gathered since the last meeting. There is no significant difference in temperatures between premixing burner and conventional lighters from 50mm to 150mm above the fuel exit orifice. These measurements were made to determine the feasibility of using temperatures as a measure of flame heights for premixing burner lighters. Roger Ducharme, Paul Adams and Mike Forys will analyze the data and report on this subject at the next meeting of F15.02.

Reports

Canada---Andy Teliszewsky from Health Canada reported on Canadian lighter activities. He stated that in 1996, 62 million disposable lighters were imported into Canada. In October, 1977, letters were sent to importers requiring that lighters made in China must show proof they conform with mandatory Canadian regulations. Over the past 2 years, none of the lighters imported from China passed the Canadian safety regulations. Health Canada invited Chinese technical personnel to visit and observe Canadian testing procedures. As a result of these meetings, the Chinese are now setting up a testing laboratory for lighters. Andy also reported that in the last several months there have been a number of accidents reported involving utility lighters. These are causing concerns since utility lighters are not covered under the current Canadian safety regulations.

Europe---David Morington reported that activities in Europe have been centered on the European Commission mandate to CEN requesting the revision of the ISO lighter standard in accordance with 4 specific requirements. These involve a) child resistancy, b) lowering maximum flame heights, c) fuel reservoir integrity and d) premixing burner lighters.

Japan---Tamotsu Kuroiwa reported there has been no activity on lighters since the last report.

TTG2---Utility Lighters

Ed Lewiecki reported on the utility lighter TTG2 meeting which took place at LaGuardia airport on May 18th, 1998. This was a joint meeting with the CPSC to discuss the utility lighter NPR briefing package pertaining to a mandatory CR rule. Subjects discussed were a) scope, application and effective date, b) definitions, c) surrogate lighters, d) requirements for utility lighters, e) test protocol, f) certification requirements and g) stockpiling.

CPSC Status Reports

Barbara Jacobson reported that on September 24th, the CPSC Commissioners voted unanimously to publish a Notice of Public Rulemaking (NPR) for multi-purpose lighters. The NPR appeared in the Federal Register on September 30th. There will be a 75 day comment period ending in mid-December. The next decision point will determine the final requirements of the rule based on comments received. This should happen during the Spring of 1999. The effective date of the rule will be 1 year from the final publication date of the rule, estimated to be during mid-year of 2000.

The scope of the rule has been expanded since the publication of the ANPR briefing package. It now includes micro-torches and gas matches. These devices are used for soldering and brazing and have applications for hobbies and crafts. Specifically excluded are devices intended primarily for igniting smoking materials, devices that contain more than 10 ozs. of fuel and matches.

Members of F15.02 brought up some concerns about wording in the published NPR. Barbara suggested these should be submitted in writing during the comment period. She urged submission of alternative solutions to all concerns voiced during the comment period.

The NPR requires that multi-purpose lighters meet the 85% child resistance rule when tested in accordance with the established child testing protocol. It also requires that a multi-purpose lighter must allow multiple operations of the ignition mechanism without further operation of the child resistant feature. It was mentioned the latter requirement might be more of a design standard than a performance standard.

Barbara also reported on the status of the study being conducted to determine the effectiveness of CR lighters. CPSC has a target of gathering 400 cases for analysis. They currently have approximately 300 in hand which includes children up to 10 years of age involved in child play incidents.

Utility Lighters

It was decided at a previous meeting that F15.02 would formulate a general safety standard for utility lighters. The scope of such standard was submitted by Mike Forys for discussion. It was agreed the scope would not be expanded to include micro-torch devices and would exclude the hands-free type of device. Also excluded would be liquid fuel lighters.

A meeting of TTG2 on utility lighters will take place on Monday, November 2nd, 1998, at the Marriott Suites Hotel, Dulles Airport. The hotel is located approximately 3 miles from the airport, with free shuttle device provided every half hour. The telephone number is 703-709-0400. Participants should make their own hotel reservations. If you have any questions, please call me at 781-749-3010.

European Mandate

Two items contained in the European mandate were discussed. On the subject of flame heights, Rene Frigiére recommended dropping the maximum flame height for adjustable gas lighters from 150mm to 120mm. There was a concern expressed by Colibri that because different fuel formulations affected the flame heights of refillable lighters, they needed to check with their suppliers whether it was technically feasible to lower the maximum flame heights for refillable lighters.

The structural integrity of fuel reservoirs was also discussed. Based on data available, only "rogue" imported lighters, mainly from China, were guilty of failing the pressure and temperature tests specified in F400. It was agreed the present requirements contained in F400 were stringent enough that neither changes nor test modifications were necessary at this time.

Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of F15.02 will take place in Williamsburg, Virginia, on Wednesday, September 29th, 1999. On the day following the F15.02 meeting the second meeting of ISO/TC61/WG1 will take place at the same location. Further details will be forthcoming when available.

Sincerely,


Edward M. Lewiecki, P.E.

Chairman, ASTM Sub-Committee F15.02
Safety Standards for Lighters

See next page for list of attendees

List of attedeeds:

Ed Lewiecki---Consultant
Thomas Morlock---Zippo Manufacturing Co.
Mike Forys---Scripto-Tokai Corp.
Michael Reynolds---Colibri
Matt McLoughlin---Swedish Match
Sterling Owen---Swedish Match
Keith Pearce---Swedish Match
Jean-Yves Carco---Swedish Match
Gerard J. Quinnan---Ronson Corp.
Emile P. DeNeree---Polyconcept (USA) Inc.
Koichiro Mori---Tokai Corp.
T. Kuroiwa---Japan Lighter Asso.
T. Fujimoto---JETRO, New York
Xavier C. Lloveras---Flamagas SA
Michael T. Bogumill---U.S. CPSC
Barbara J. Jacobson---U.S. CPSC
Roger Ducharme---Colibri Group
Alex Alexiades---U.S. Lighter Association
Tom Kelleher---Bic Corp.
Paul Adams---Bic Corp.
Rene Frigiére---Bic Corp.
Michael A. Schuler---Zippo Manufacturing Co.
Henry Aiello---Zippo Manufacturing Co.
Pete Ketcham---Zippo Manufacturing Co.
Andy Teliszewsky---Health Canada
Jittipong Khemarangsarn---Thai Merry Co., Ltd.
Felix Hon---Calico/Thai Merry
David Mornington---U.K. DTI/BSI
Beth McConnell---Product Safety Letter
Jim Wilson---Calico Brands
Aman K.M. Chung---Thai Merry Co., Ltd.
Peter Leiter---Tokai Seiki (Germany)
Jan Oosterbroek---Tokai Seiki B.V. (Benelux)
Frank J. Daily---Quarles & Brady
Colleen Scherckenbach---Quarles & Brady

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